Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7104
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 746

DAR ES SALAAM FOR USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT

1. PM VORSTER TODAY, APRIL 13, MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA DURING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. HE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN GREAT DETAIL BECAUSE THE PEOPLES WHOSE FUTURE WAS AT STAKE HAVE NOT YET EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO A LARGE DELEGATION FROM SWA THIS MRONING (THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE GROUP LED BY DIRK MUDGE) AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH
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THEIR RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY THE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE HERERO GROUP IN PARTICULAR, IN LIGHT OF THE ASSASINATION OF CHIEF KAPUUO.

2. HE STATED THAT WHILE HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THE SWA ISSUE AT LENGTH, THERE WERE THREE POINTS

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HE WISHED TO UNDERSCORE. FIRST OF ALL, HE STRESSED
THAT WALVIS BAY BELONGED TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT
SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION.
HE SAID THIS WOULD REMAIN THE POSITION UNTIL THE
PARLIAMENT DECIDED OTHERWISE. IF SWAPO TOOK THE POSITION
THAT IT WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS UNLESS
WALVIS BAY WAS CEDED TO SWA AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT,
THAT WAS ITS OWN DECISION TO MAKE.

3. SECONDLY, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVT HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF
LAW AND ORDER IN SWA AND THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICEV
OVER THE YEARS HAD CARRIED OUT THIS RESPONSIBILITY
AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO UNTIL INDEPENDENCE. THE
SAG, HE SAID, WAS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN AGREEMENT
WHICH REQUIRED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SAP BEFORE
INDEPENDENCE.

4. THE THIRD AND FINAL POINT RELATED TO THE QUESTION
OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP PRESENCE. VORSTER ASSERTED
THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WERE NOT IN SWA TO ANNEX OR
OCCUPY THE TERRITORY BUT TO PROTECT PEOPLE'S LIVES AND
PROPERTY. "NOT BEFORE AND ONLY WHEN THERE IS A VISIBLE
PEACE", HE SAID, "WOULD SOUTH AFRICA REDUCE ITS
FORCES, NOT TO SPEAK OF WITHDRAWAL". UNDER THE
SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL, HE SAID, THE FIVE WESTERN
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POWERS SHOULD ASSURE THAT VIOLENCE AND HOSTILITIES
CEASE. VORSTER ADDED THAT THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES
WHICH WANT PEACE SHOULD OPPOSE THOSE WHO COMMIT
VIOLENCE IN THE TERRITORY.

5. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, COLIN EGLIN, SAID HE
APPRECIATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION THAT HE
COULD NOT AT THIS TIME ENGAGE IN A FULL DISCUSSION
OF THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE. HE WELCOMES THE PRIME MINISTER'S
REMARKS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS REASONABLE, AND SAID
HE WAS GLAD TO SEE THE GOVT WAS KEEPING THE DOOR
OPEN FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT. EGLIN ALSO
SUPPORTED THE THREE POINTS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER.
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